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Message Text

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73
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-06 /031 W
---------- 019162
R 232130Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7083

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E.O. 11652 - N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ELTN, ES
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: POTENTIAL RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION IN EL SALVADOR

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR 4874; B) STATE 279307

1. EMBASSY HAD NOT REPORTED THE POTENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION OF SALVADORAN RAILROADS AS A MAJOR PROJECT (EARLY WARNING) BECAUSE WERE WERE NOT AWARE IT WAS RECEIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION. ITS APPEARANCE ON THE SALVADORAN "LIST OF 25 PROJECTS" (REFTEL A) IS NOT IN AND OF ITSELF THAT SIGNIFICANT SINCE THE LIST WAS DRAWN UP HURRIEDLY AND WITHOUT MUCH INTER-GOES COORDINATION. ING. JORGE ROCHAC, GENERAL MANAGER OF CEPA, WHIKH ADMINISTERS THE RAILROADS, TOLD ECONOFF DEC 23, THAT THE PROJECT WAS ON THE VENFUN LIST BECAUSE OF ITS ATTRACTION TO SEVERAL HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE PLANNING OFFICE BUT IT WAS NOT A FEASIBLE PROJECT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

2. WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY CONCERNING THE STATE OF DIS-REPAIR OF THE TWO SALVADORAN RAILROADS. AT LEAST 500 KILOMETERS OF RAIL ARE IN SUCH A BAD STATE OF REPAIR THAT MAXIMUM VELOCITY IS 30 KPH. THE TIES ARE SO OLD THAT SOME 5.5 MILLION ARE SPACED AN AVERAGE OF SIX INCHES APART. THIS IS STATED TO DEMONSTRATE THE AMOUNT OF UPGRADING BEFORE ELECTRIFICATION COULD BE CONSIDERED. APPARENTLY THE COMBINATION OF MEDIUM TERM PROSPECTS OF SURPLUS NON-FOSSIL FUEL
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ELECTRICITY AND FRENCH, SWISS AND BELGIAN COMMERCIAL

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VISITS HAVE GENERATED THIS INTEREST IN RAILROAD ELECTRIFICATION. ROCHAC SAID CATEGORICALLY IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME TO PURSUE THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE COSTS INVOLVED. ROCHAC IS AWARE OF US EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD AND WAS REMINDED OF US INTEREST SHOULD THIS PROJECT MOVE TO ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.
CAMPBELL

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, RAILROADS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANSA05027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740373-0403
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741214/aaaaalyq.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 SAN SALVADOR 4874, 74 STATE 279307
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: POTENTIAL RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION IN EL SALVADOR
TAGS: BEXP, ELTN, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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